

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
Governor

**SHAN S. TSUTSUI**  
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**SCOTT E. ENRIGHT**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

April 1, 2015  
2:30 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 308

**SENATE BILL NO. 376 SD 2  
RELATING TO A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM**

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 376 SD 2. This bill establishes a farm to school program within the Department of Agriculture and creates a coordinator position within the Department. The Department supports the intent of this measure provided it does not adversely affect the priorities in the Administration's budget.

The Department believes in the potential of the school food network to greatly increase the amount of locally-grown fruits and vegetables that are procured within the state and has participated in a number of task forces and working groups surrounding this topic that reported to the legislature including: a report to the 2012 Legislature resulting from House Concurrent Resolution 167 (2011) and a report to the 2010 Legislature per Senate Concurrent Resolution 121 (2009). The Department continues to be an advocate for increased consumption of local agricultural commodities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.





**SB376 SD2**  
**RELATING TO A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM**  
House Committee on Finance

April 1, 2015

2:30 p.m.

Room 308

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) offers the following **COMMENTS** on SB376 SD2, which may improve community health and further the state's food self-sufficiency goals, by establishing a statewide farm-to-school program within the Department of Agriculture.

SB376 SD2 takes an integrated approach to simultaneously improve the health of Hawai'i's students and their families, while also supporting Hawai'i's local food industry. The farm-to-school program promoted by this measure includes nutrition education, a school garden component, and the use of locally-grown food in school meals. Such a farm-to-school program may be an important step towards achieving better health outcomes and greater food self-sufficiency in our islands.

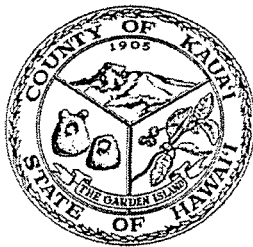
**By incorporating garden-based learning into school curricula, children will learn healthy eating habits, gain an appreciation for how their food is grown, and learn about the importance of agriculture, lessons that they may then share with their families and larger community.** Such outcomes will promote OHA's strategic priority of Maui Ola (Health), which represents a commitment to improve the health and well-being of Native Hawaiians. The concept of Maui Ola considers the entirety of our well-being as contributing to the health of ourselves and the larger community. Consistent with this concept, by educating children through garden-based learning, and fostering their and their communities' appreciation for outdoor farming activities as well as for fresh and healthy agricultural products, the farm-to-school program promoted by this bill will benefit community health and well-being now and into the future.

In addition to supporting healthy choices and healthy children, this bill will support the state's food self-sufficiency goals, by increasing support for Hawai'i's local agricultural economy. In adopting the targets of the Aloha+ Challenge, the state has committed to doubling local food production by 2030. OHA notes that the principles underlying the Aloha+ Challenge support a renewed commitment to the sustainability practiced by our ancestors, and perpetuated today through the traditional concept of malama 'āina. **By sourcing school meals to local farms, this bill invests in local food production, which may in turn lead to more agricultural jobs, greater incentives for farmer training, and the preservation of agricultural land for agriculture.**

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**COUNTY COUNCIL**

Mel Rapozo, Chair  
Ross Kagawa, Vice Chair  
Mason K. Chock  
Gary L. Hooser  
Arryl Kaneshiro  
KipuKai Kualī'i  
JoAnn A. Yukimura



**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK**

Ricky Watanabe, County Clerk  
Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa, Deputy County Clerk

Telephone (808) 241-4188  
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Email [cokcouncil@kauai.gov](mailto:cokcouncil@kauai.gov)

**Council Services Division**  
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209  
Līhu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

March 30, 2015

**TESTIMONY OF MASON K. CHOCK  
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL  
ON**

**SB 376, SD 2 RELATING TO A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM**

House Committee on Finance

Wednesday, April 1, 2015

2:30 p.m.

Conference Room 308

Dear Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB 376, SD 2 Relating to a Farm to School Program. My testimony is submitted in my capacity as an individual Councilmember of the Kaua'i County Council.

SB 376, SD 2 establishes the Hawai'i farm to school program in the Department of Agriculture, and appropriates funds for a coordinator position to oversee the State's farm to school program. The purpose of the farm to school program is to improve the health of children through the support of school gardens, health and nutrition education, agriculture, and the procurement of locally grown foods for school meals and snacks. A successful farm to school program can increase students' physical activity, school meal participation, preference for fresh fruits and vegetables, and most importantly, improve academic achievement and student behavior. Furthermore, the coordinator will be able to collaborate with stakeholders to incorporate more agriculture and nutrition education in Hawai'i's schools.

For the reasons stated above, I strongly encourage the House Committee on Finance to support this measure. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188.

Sincerely,

**MASON K. CHOCK**  
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

AB:mn

**COUNTY COUNCIL**

Mel Rapozo, Chair  
Ross Kagawa, Vice Chair  
Mason K. Chock  
Gary L. Hooser  
Arryl Kaneshiro  
KipuKai Kualii'i  
JoAnn A. Yukimura



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**Council Services Division**  
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209  
Līhu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

March 30, 2015

**TESTIMONY OF KIPUKAI KUALI'I  
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUA'I COUNTY COUNCIL  
ON**

**SB 376, SD 2, RELATING TO A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM**

House Committee on Finance

Wednesday, April 1, 2015

2:30 p.m.

Conference Room 308

Dear Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB 376, SD 2, which establishes a Hawai'i farm to school program. My testimony is submitted in my capacity as an individual Councilmember of the Kaua'i County Council and as the Economic Development & Intergovernmental Relations Committee Chairperson.

Establishing a farm to school program in the State of Hawai'i will increase educational opportunities for our *keiki* and provide the procurement of locally grown foods for school meals and snacks. Through education and by engaging our students through farm to school activities at an early age, it will encourage them to live healthier lifestyles. This may reduce ones susceptibility to chronic disease and other health conditions later in life. Furthermore, SB 376, SD 2 is in line with the State's objective to encourage the purchase and use of Hawai'i grown produce.

For the reasons stated above, I strongly encourage the House Committee on Finance to support this measure. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188.

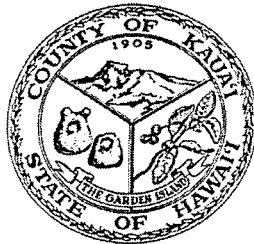
Sincerely,

**KIPUKAI KUALI'I**  
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

AB:lc

**COUNTY COUNCIL**

Mel Rapozo, Chair  
Ross Kagawa, Vice Chair  
Mason K. Chock  
Gary L. Hooser  
Arryl Kaneshiro  
KipuKai Kualii  
JoAnn A. Yukimura



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**Council Services Division**  
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209  
Lihue, Kauai, Hawaii 96766

March 31, 2015

**TESTIMONY OF JOANN A. YUKIMURA  
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL  
ON**

**SB 376, SD2, RELATING TO A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM**

House Committee on Finance

Wednesday, April 1, 2015

2:30 p.m.

Conference Room 308

Dear Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB 376, SD2, Relating to A Farm To School Program. My testimony is submitted in my capacity as a Councilmember of the Kauai County Council.

SB 376, SD2, establishes the Hawaii farm to school program and a farm to school coordinator position within the Department of Agriculture.

A farm to school program is a major component in encouraging students to eat healthy, as it provides a nutritious school food environment where they become familiar with, have preference for, and consume more fruits and vegetables at school and then at home. Establishing healthy behaviors at an early age contributes to healthy conditions later in life.

Investing in a farm to school program also supports the agricultural economy by providing a market where local farmers can sell their produce. It would encourage farmers to begin to cultivate and diversify their agricultural products to be able to meet the supply, demand, procurement, and consumption needs of the community. This farm to school program is a major step towards meeting the State's food self-sufficiency and food security goals.

For the reasons stated above, I strongly encourage the House Committee on Finance to support this measure. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188.

Sincerely,

JOANN A. YUKIMURA  
Councilmember, Kauai County Council

AO:mn



# **UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM**

## **Legislative Testimony**

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### WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Submitted to the  
House Committee on Finance  
Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at 2:30 pm

By  
Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor  
And  
Maria Gallo, Dean  
And  
J. Kenneth Grace, Associate Dean  
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### **SB 376 SD2 – RELATING TO A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM**

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 376 SD2, which establishes the Hawai'i farm to school program and a farm to school coordinator position within the Department of Agriculture.

Although we defer to the Department of Agriculture on the fiscal and management implications of SB 376 SD2, we believe that this is an effective approach to further the goals of greater use of local farm products within the public school system, and a coordinated approach to agricultural, health, and nutrition education within the schools.

The College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, has been active in the discussions around these issues. We will be glad to continue to work, as our resources permit, with all the parties concerned to promote greater use of local farm products and further development of a comprehensive and effective farm to school program.

## TESTIMONY

House Committee on Finance

Wednesday, April 1, 2015, 2:30 p.m.

### SB376 SD2: RELATING TO A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee,

The National Farm to School Network strongly supports SB376 SD2, which establishes a farm to school program and a coordinator position in the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture.

Farm to school/preschool is the practice of sourcing local food for K-12 schools and early care and education settings and providing agriculture, health and nutrition education opportunities, such as school gardens, farm field trips, and cooking lessons. Farm to school improves the health of children and communities while supporting local and regional farmers (<http://www.farmtoschool.org>). The National Farm to School Network (NFSN), founded in 2007, seeks to create strong and just local food systems that ensure the health of children, farms, the environment, the economy and communities. NFSN provides vision, leadership and support to connect and strengthen the farm to school movement, which includes tens-of-thousands of schools and early care settings in all 50 states and DC.

A recently released report, the “State Farm to School Legislative Survey: 2002-2013”

([http://www.farmtoschool.org/Resources/State\\_Farm\\_to\\_School\\_Legislative\\_Survey\\_4\\_2014.pdf](http://www.farmtoschool.org/Resources/State_Farm_to_School_Legislative_Survey_4_2014.pdf)), highlights the growing commitment from US states and the District of Columbia to advance policies that promote farm to school.

**As of February 2014, nineteen US states and the District of Columbia have established one or more farm to school coordinator positions at the state level in their departments of agriculture, education, and/or university systems.** These states include: Arizona, California, Connecticut, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Kentucky, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin.

Farm to school coordinators play a key role in the development of successful statewide farm to school programs through increased interagency and public-private sector communication and collaboration. They enhance local agriculture industries through support for farmers (e.g., in the areas of food safety, food hubs, farm field trips for students), facilitate increased education opportunities for students (e.g., school gardens, nutrition education, cooking lessons), strengthen school meal and snack programs through support for school cafeterias and staff and increased procurement of fresh locally grown foods, and are able to accurately inform effective policy making around farm to school.

Considering the proven benefits of farm to school programs (see “The Benefits of Farm to School,” <http://www.farmtoschool.org/Resources/BenefitsFactSheet.pdf>) in the areas of agriculture, education, health, and the economy, the creation of a state-level farm to school program and coordinator position in the Hawai'i Departments of Agriculture will be a sound investment.



NATIONAL  
FARM to SCHOOL  
NETWORK  
A PROJECT OF TIDES CENTER

GROWING STRONGER TOGETHER

We welcome any questions you may have, and we thank you for your efforts to advance farm to school.

Sincerely,

Anupama Joshi  
Executive Director & Co-Founder  
National Farm to School Network

Helen Dombalis  
Policy and Strategic Partnerships Director  
National Farm to School Network

Stacey Sobell  
Western Regional Lead  
National Farm to School Network

Natalie Talis  
Policy Associate  
National Farm to School Network





NATIONAL  
**FARM to SCHOOL**  
NETWORK  
A PROJECT OF TIDES CENTER

GROWING STRONGER TOGETHER

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 12:57 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: darakawa@lurf.org  
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB376 on Apr 1, 2015 14:30PM

**SB376**

Submitted on: 3/31/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 1, 2015 14:30PM in Conference Room 308

| Submitted By     | Organization                              | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|------------------|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| David Z. Arakawa | Land Use Research<br>Foundation of Hawaii | Support            | No                 |

Comments: The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii SUPPORTS SB 376, SD2, RELATING TO A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM, which establishes the Hawaii Farm to School Program and a Farm to School coordinator position. Appropriates funds. Effective Date 7/1/2050. (SB 376, SD2)

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921  
e-mail [info@hfbf.org](mailto:info@hfbf.org); [www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

April 1, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON SB 376 SD 2  
RELATING TO A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Room 308  
2:30 PM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFB). Organized since 1948, HFB is comprised of 1,932 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

**HFB supports SB 376 SD 2**, which seeks to establish the Hawaii Farm to School Program and a farm to school coordinator position.

HFB strongly supports increased use of locally grown agricultural products, fruits, vegetables, meats, dairy and poultry products in our schools and other public institutions. This will truly be a significant step towards increasing our levels of self-sufficiency. HFB also believes that learning where food comes from is an important part of our children's education. Agriculture education involves more than just learning the basics of food production, it provides the opportunity for our children to understand and appreciate the importance of agriculture.

Many formal and informal studies have been done addressing farm to school programs and we understand the Department of Agriculture (DOA) has also done some work in this area in the past. Our farmers and ranchers have tried to work with the procurement system and can speak to the shortcomings of the system. For example, supplying a school or schools within a geographic area is feasible, but providing to the entire school system is not. Focus should now be on working with the procurement system to make institutional markets accessible while considering the capacity of farmers and ranchers in Hawaii. Assistance to farmers on how to navigate the system should be a priority.

HFB recognizes the need and importance of agricultural education and school farm programs, and as a farm organization we would like to see increased emphasis of agriculture in schools. We believe that school farms serve multiple purposes. They serve not only to educate students on how to grow crops but also what it takes to turn a farm into a successful business enterprise that can be a career choice. Agronomy, economics, science, business planning, entomology, pathology and various technologies including programming, navigation and robotics are some of the courses that can evolve around the farm. Programs that teach the principles behind good agricultural practices - steps that must be taken that protect the environment, product, and worker are critical components of a school farm. The purpose of the farm should be to educate and expose students to a career choice.

Developing and maintaining an agricultural workforce should be a vital component of this program. A trained workforce with various skills is necessary to any agricultural operation. This need has to be addressed along with generating interest in our youth to pursue the various careers and to become our future leaders in Hawaii agriculture. HFB supports programs and initiatives such as the FFA, 4-H, and Farm to School programs because they help to educate and reconnect our children with agriculture. Through agricultural education programs, our children will gain an understanding and appreciation for agriculture which will result in healthier eating habits, stronger support for Hawaii's agriculture industry and will contribute to Hawaii's food security.

This should be viewed is an investment in Hawaii's future to develop well-informed consumers and supporters of our local agricultural industries.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



**Testimony of Hawai'i Green Growth in Support of SB376 SD2  
Relating to a Farm to School Program  
House Committee on Finance  
1 April 2015, 2:30pm, Room 308**

Audrey Newman  
Hawai'i Green Growth  
P.O. Box 535 Ho'olehua, Hawai'i 96729

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*Hawai'i Green Growth is a voluntary partnership of more than 60 state, county, federal, business, and non-governmental leaders from energy, food production, natural resources, waste reduction, planning, green jobs, and other sectors who have come together to support a shared statewide commitment and tangible actions toward sustainability and a model green economy.*

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Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee,

**Hawai'i Green Growth strongly supports SB376 SD2**, which will establish the Hawai'i farm to school program and create two Farm to School Coordinator positions - one at Department of Agriculture and another at Department of Education. This will jointly increase institutional purchasing of local foods and to coordinate a framework that supports agricultural education from pre-school through college.

Hawai'i Green Growth is a voluntary partnership of more than 60 state, county, federal, business, and non-governmental leaders from energy, food production, natural resources, waste reduction, planning, green jobs, and other sectors who have come together to support a shared statewide commitment and tangible actions toward sustainability and a model green economy.

**SB376 SD2** will help advance action on the Aloha+ Challenge's local food production 2030 target: "At least double local food production - 20-30% of food consumed is grown locally." The Aloha+ Challenge: A Culture of Sustainability – He Nohona 'Ae'oa is a joint leadership commitment to achieve six sustainability targets by 2030 in the areas of clean energy, local food production, natural resource management, solid waste reduction, smart growth and climate resilience, green jobs and education. The Aloha+ Challenge was unanimously endorsed by the 2014 Legislature (SCR 69) and signed by Hawai'i's Governor, Mayors and Office of Hawaiian Affairs. It was also internationally recognized as a model of integrated sustainability at the UN Conference on Small Island Developing States in Samoa.

As a partnership representing Hawai'i's leaders in environment, food and energy, HGG asks for your support of **SB376 SD2**, which is an important investment in Hawai'i's future.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Audrey Newman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Audrey" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Newman".

**Audrey Newman**

Senior Advisor, Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG)

*Bringing leaders together to achieve sustainability in Hawai'i & be a model for a green economy*

<http://www.hawaiigreengrowth.org>



4 Ag Hawai'i

Hawai'i Aquaculture &  
Aquaponics Association

Hawai'i Association of  
Independent Schools

Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council

Hawai'i Farm Bureau  
Federation

Hawai'i Farmers' Union  
United

Hawai'i Food Industry  
Association

Hawai'i Food  
Manufacturers Association

Kohala Center

Malama Kaua'i

Maui School Garden  
Network

Ulupono Initiative

## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Wednesday, April 1, 2015 – Agenda #2 - 2:30 PM – Room 308

### RE: SB 376 SD2 - Relating to a Farm to School Program – In Support

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto and Members of the Committee:

**The Local Food Coalition strongly supports SB 376 SD2**, which establishes the Hawai'i farm to school program and a farm to school coordinator position within the Department of Agriculture.

This measure will provide the necessary means for the foundation of a farm to school program in Hawai'i. This valuable program will allow students to gain access to healthy, local foods while stimulating the local economy. By dedicating a coordinator within the Department of Agriculture, this will ensure a coordinated effort that will ultimately benefit our students, farmers, and our community.

The Local Food Coalition is an organization comprising of farmers, ranchers, livestock producers, investors and other organizations working to provide Hawai'i's food supply.

The Local Food Coalition is pleased to support proposals designed to help grow more local food. Our group's members came together with one common goal: to promote the local production of food in a sustainable and economically sound manner to benefit Hawai'i's people through the revitalization and expansion of our state's agricultural sector. The Coalition is continuing to pursue this comprehensive approach because it is the most effective way for Hawai'i to develop its resources for diversified food production, as well as lessen its dependence on importing that which can be grown, raised and processed locally.

We believe that working together we can help produce more local food, support an economically strong homegrown agriculture industry, which strengthens our community with fresh, healthy food.

We respectfully ask for your support of SB 376 SD2. Thank you.

Lori Lum  
808-544-8343  
[llum@wik.com](mailto:llum@wik.com)

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2015 10:52 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: tiana@farmtokeiki.org  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for SB376 on Apr 1, 2015 14:30PM\*

**SB376**

Submitted on: 3/30/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 1, 2015 14:30PM in Conference Room 308

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Tiana Kamen  | Individual   | Support            | No                 |

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 2:32 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: lora.rainey@gmail.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB376 on Apr 1, 2015 14:30PM

**SB376**

Submitted on: 3/31/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 1, 2015 14:30PM in Conference Room 308

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Lora Rainey  | Individual   | Support            | No                 |

Comments: This is an amazing program and critical to the health of our young people and sustainability of our land.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 6:58 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: annie@projectvisionhawaii.org  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for SB376 on Apr 1, 2015 14:30PM\*

**SB376**

Submitted on: 3/31/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 1, 2015 14:30PM in Conference Room 308

| Submitted By                   | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| ELIZABETH A HILLER<br>VALENTIN | Individual   | Support            | No                 |

Comments:

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## FIN-Jo

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2015 1:11 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** kumuanela@kawaikini.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB376 on Apr 1, 2015 14:30PM\*

### **SB376**

Submitted on: 3/31/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 1, 2015 14:30PM in Conference Room 308

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Anela        | Individual   | Support            | No                 |

### Comments:

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Kelvin Ho  
PO Box 769,  
Lawai Hawaii 96765  
808.3327263  
[kelkauai@gmail.com](mailto:kelkauai@gmail.com)

March 31, 2015

Aloha Legislators

I am writing in support of SB 376 to help to fund a farm to school program and coordinator in the Dept of Agriculture. I have worked with youth at risk at hale Opio Kauai Inc for 15 yers and see a great need to reconnect youth with the land. As a therapy, and place based ,culturally connected learning experience. This is well worth funding and supporting. For our youth and the future, please pass this bill.

Kelvin Ho

## FIN-Jo

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2015 2:01 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** smfaridi@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB376 on Apr 1, 2015 14:30PM\*

### **SB376**

Submitted on: 3/31/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 1, 2015 14:30PM in Conference Room 308

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Shadi Faridi | Individual   | Support            | No                 |

### Comments:

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# Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui

Coordinated through The Kohala Center

TESTIMONY  
House Committee on Finance  
April 1, 2015, 2:30 p.m.

**LATE**

## Kaua'i

Tiana Kamen  
*Farm to Keiki Preschool Program*

Keone Kealoha  
*Mālama Kaua'i*  
*Kaua'i School Garden Network*

## O'ahu

Hunter Heaivilin  
*O'ahu Farm to School Network*

Natalie McKinney  
*Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation*

Debbie Millikan  
*Iolani School*

Elysa Ermatinger  
*Hoa 'Āina O Makaha*

Mahealani Matsuzaki  
*Kamehameha Schools*  
*'Āina-Based Education*

Terri Langley  
*MA'O Organic Farms*

Jayne Grzebik  
*University of Hawai'i*  
*Master Gardeners*

## Moloka'i

Harmonee Williams  
*Sustainable Moloka'i*  
*Moloka'i School Garden Network*

## Maui & Lana'i

Lehn Huff  
*Maui & Lana'i School Garden Network*

Nio Kindla & Kirk Surry  
*Grow Some Good*

## Hawai'i Island

Nancy Redfeather & Donna Mitts  
*The Kohala Center*  
*Hawai'i Island School Garden Network*

## Statewide

Jennifer Ryan & Leimomi Dierks  
*Hawai'i Department of Health*

Dexter Kishida  
*Hawai'i Department of Education, SFSB*

Jennifer Dang  
*Hawai'i Department of Education, HCNP*

Lillian Coltin  
*Hawai'i Department of Education*

Andrea Snow  
*FoodCorps*

## Pacific Region

Dr. Koh Ming Wei  
*Pacific Resources for Education and Learning*

## SB376 SD2: RELATING TO A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui **strongly supports SB376 SD2**, which establishes a farm to school program and a farm to school coordinator position in the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture.

Formed in 2010, the Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui is a statewide network comprised of five island-level networks, along with representatives of the Hawai'i Departments of Education and Health, whose mission is to strengthen Hawai'i's statewide farm to school and school garden movement.

**The state-level farm to school coordinator established through the passage of this bill will provide the necessary focus, expertise, direct action, and informed policymaking so essential to the realization of a vibrant and successful farm to school program for Hawai'i.** Nineteen other US states and the District of Columbia have already established state-level farm to school coordinators in their departments of agriculture, education, and/or university systems as of February 2014, in recognition of the value brought by a coordinated and strategic effort lead by appropriately skilled and assigned individuals. The investment by our state in the creation of a state-level farm to school program will realize significant returns proven to be provided by farm to school in the areas of **agriculture, education, health, and the economy.**

The total proposed annual budget for a state-level farm to school program and coordinator position for Hawai'i is \$150,000, including \$65,000 salary, \$34,000 benefits, and \$50,000 operating expenses for travel, supplies, and the convening of stakeholder meetings. These figures are very much in line with those provided in the attached descriptions of two state-level farm to school programs in the Departments of Agriculture for Alaska and Washington, along with the duties of their farm to school coordinator positions.

The time is now to establish a strong state-level farm to school program and dedicated coordinator position on behalf of a healthy future for all of Hawai'i's keiki.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Lydi Morgan Bernal  
Coordinator  
schoolgardenhui@kohalacenter.org  
www.hawaiischoolgardenhui.org

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>State</b>  | <b>Alaska</b>  |
| <b>Position Title</b>                                       | Farm to School Program Coordinator   |
| <b>Name</b>   | Johanna herron   |
| <b>Phone</b>  | (907) 761-3870   |
| <b>Email</b>  | johanna.herron@alaska.gov  |
| <b>Program Website</b>                                      | <a href="http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag_FTS.htm">http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag_FTS.htm</a>  |
| <b>Where is the position housed?</b>                        | State Department of Natural Resources, Division of Agriculture   |
| <b>What specific branch is the position under?</b>          | Marketing  |
| <b>When was your position established?</b>                  | July 2014  |
| <b>How was your position established?</b>                   | In 2010 HB-70 legislation was passed which established a 4 year pilot program for Farm to School. This past year (after the pilot was over) the Governor included the program as part of the Division of Agriculture's operating budget securing it for the time being. There has also been a separate annual appropriation of money called the Nutritional Foods for Alaskan Schools Grant Program which is housed in the Department of Commerce, Community of Economic Development. This was an annual appropriation of \$3,000,000 to be granted to school districts to use for local food purchases. It was introduced by representative Bill Stoltze in 2012 and the Governor included it in his budget the following two years. The administration has changed and our new Governor has not included it in his budget. |
| <b>Is your position Permanent?</b>                          | Yes  |
| <b>Full Time/Part Time/Other</b>                            | Full time (40 hrs/wk)  |
| <b>Approx. % of work focused on Farm to School</b>          | 100  |
| <b>Areas of Focus</b>                                       | School Gardens, Agriculture Education, Nutrition Education, Cooking Demonstrations/Chef Visits, Farm Field Trips, School Meals, Salad Bars, School Snacks (incl. FFVP), Food Safety, Garden to Cafeteria, Food Systems (supply, processing, distribution), Procurement, Policy, Professional Development, Curriculum, State-level Grant Program  |
| <b>Job Description Doc Title</b>                            |  |
| <b>Job Description</b>                                      |  |
| <b>Total Annual Budget of Farm to School Program</b>        | For the program I run: \$181,000.  |
| <b>Annual Budget of Farm to School Coordinator Position</b> | \$130,300 for staff which is equal to 1.5 FTE; \$17,000 for travel, \$22,100 for services, and \$11,600 for other.   |
| <b>Funding Sources</b>                                      | Operating budget for the state. Things can always change in which case I will likely apply for grants.   |
| <b>How are impacts measured/evaluated?</b>                  | We do a lot of data collection. We strategic plan and survey our stakeholders when possible. Our state Farm to School listserv has 540 people on it.   |
| <b>Qualitative Impacts</b>                                  | We just hosted our first state conference and had 130 people attend from 36 communities around the state.  |
| <b>Quantitative Impacts</b>                                 | You can read about the conference impacts on page 4-5 of the newsletter (sent to the email) or you can access at: <a href="http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/Newsletters/NewsletterFebruary2015.pdf">http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/Newsletters/NewsletterFebruary2015.pdf</a>  |
| <b>Additional Comments</b>                                  | Happy to answer any questions: Johanna Herron, johanna.herron@alaska.gov; 907-761-3870   |
| <b>Date Survey Completed</b>                                | 2/4/2015 8:53:04   |

Source: Survey of State-Level Farm to School Coordinators, Conducted by the Hawaii Farm to School and School Garden Hui and the National Farm to School Network, Spring 2015

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>State</b>                                       | <b>Washington</b>   |
| <b>Position Title</b>                              | Education and Outreach Specialist   |
| <b>Name</b>  | Tricia Kovacs   |
| <b>Phone</b>                                       | (206) 256-6150  |
| <b>Email</b>                                       | tkovacs@agr.wa.gov  |
| <b>Program Website</b>                             | www.wafarmtoschool.org  |
| <b>Where is the position housed?</b>               | State Dept of Agriculture   |
| <b>What specific branch is the position under?</b> | Office of Compliance and Outreach   |
| <b>When was your position established?</b>         | December 2008   |
| <b>How was your position established?</b>          | <p>Legislation: Local Farms Healthy Kids Act SB 6483 2008, Currently in law as RCW 15.64.060.</p> <p>Was originally created as Farm to School Program Manager, but the legislature eliminated funds in 2011 and then these activities were put under Education and Outreach and the Program was officially closed. Activities continued under grant funding. In 2013, the Legislature reinstated some funds, but not enough for one FTE. There is currently a policy initiative to get \$1 million for Farm to School and Small Farm Direct Marketing programs per biennium, but it seems unlikely.</p> |
| <b>Is your position Permanent?</b>                 | Yes   |
| <b>Full Time/Part Time/Other</b>                   | Full time (40 hrs/wk)   |
| <b>Approx. % of work focused on Farm to School</b> | 50%   |
| <b>Areas of Focus</b>                              | School Gardens, Agriculture Education, Nutrition Education, School Meals, Salad Bars, School Snacks (incl. FFVP), Food Safety, Garden to Cafeteria, Food Systems (supply, processing, distribution), Procurement, Policy, Focus is mainly on procurement, promotion and food systems  |
| <b>Job Description Doc Title</b>                   |   |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Job Description</b>                                      | <p>Job description is currently being revised and reviewed. Basics:</p> <p>Program manager position, includes strategic planning and program development; grant writing and management; hiring and overseeing project staff. Work includes:</p> <p>Education and Outreach to farmers, food processors, distributors, school buyers and local health officials to increase purchases of WA Grown food in schools. Partnerships with many agencies and organizations across the state to conduct conferences, workshops, events, webinars. Planning and writing guides and toolkits on school food procurement, on-farm food safety, draft wellness policies, etc. Conduct pilot projects in local school districts and other institutions to test purchasing, kitchen, and education practices to share with others. Maintaining a database of farms, businesses, schools, institutions and community partners interested in farm to school. Coordinating special events like Taste Washington Day to promote and highlight Farm to School. Serve as State Lead for the National Farm to School Network. Serve on various cross-agency committees and task forces to support farm to institution.</p> |
| <b>Total Annual Budget of Farm to School Program</b>        | <p>State Budget: \$75,000</p> <p>Grants and Contracts: Varies widely. Have had over \$1 million in grants since 2008. Generally have \$250,000 or so per year.</p>   |
| <b>Annual Budget of Farm to School Coordinator Position</b> | <p>Salary: \$65,000</p> <p>Benefits: approx. \$19,000</p> <p>Goods and Services (computers, phones, travel, etc.): Varies - up to \$20,000</p>   |
| <b>Funding Sources</b>                                      | Mostly state general funds.  |
| <b>How are impacts measured/evaluated?</b>                  | When fully funded, we were to turn in reports to the Legislature every two years. Now, it is mostly based on grant-funded projects and reports, and clear communication with those above me in the agency.   |
| <b>Qualitative Impacts</b>                                  | More school districts are participating, and several are working with us on procurement and promotion. Taste Washington Day is a very popular event and this past year many school districts served local foods and made a great day of it. Farms are more comfortable and willing to work toward food safety certifications, and are interested in selling to schools.  |
| <b>Quantitative Impacts</b>                                 | Survey report coming out in a month or two, but don't have anything easy to share at this time.  |
| <b>Additional Comments</b>                                  | I am very short for time right now, as we are applying for several grants and it is the season to be running around to farmer conferences and events. If you need more detail on impacts, and have time, please contact me again in early March.   |
| <b>Date Survey Completed</b>                                | 2/5/2015 9:13:42   |

**Source: Survey of State-Level Farm to School Coordinators, Conducted by the Hawaii Farm to School and School Garden Hui and the National Farm to School Network, Spring 2015**



April 1, 2015

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
Committee on Finance  
House of Representatives  
State of Hawaii Twenty-Eighth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2015



Written Testimony in Support of SB 376 SD 2 RELATING TO A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Public Hearing  
Wednesday, April 1, 2015  
2:30 p.m., Hawaii State Capitol Conference Room 308

Dear Chair Representative Luke, Vice Chair Representative Nishimoto and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my individual support for SB 376 SD 2 to establish Hawaii farm to school program and a farm to school coordinator position.

My name is Eri Nomura and I am a graduate student in the master's program in the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work at University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Opportunities to work with children previously in the field of education introduced me to the importance of fostering healthy lifestyles from a young age. This is especially critical in a society where common illnesses are associated with healthy diet and behavior. Through personal experience of illness and health concerns in the family and my own, I came to appreciate what comes to the table for my well-being in my young adulthood. The farm to school program will provide opportunities for children to develop such awareness from an early age which would shape and promote healthy lifestyles and behavior in their development.

Farm to school activities, introducing more locally grown products to the life of children, will also foster awareness and appreciation toward their land and environment. The program will further support agricultural economy and promote self-sufficiency of our islands. Participation in agricultural activities, in addition, will enhance their social emotional development by working together with their peers as well as transforming their experiences around meals. The experience of the children will impact lives of others, including their families and members of the community.

The program and position will make contributions beyond well-being and future of our children, to the environment, economy, and our society as a whole, and for these reasons, I support SB 376 SD 2. Thank you for allowing me to share my testimony.

Eri Nomura



**LATE**

To: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance  
The Honorable Scott Y Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance  
Members, House Committee on Finance

From: Jessica Yamauchi, Executive Director

Date: March 30, 2015

Hrg: House Committee on Finance; Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at 2:30 p.m. in Rm 308

Re: **Support for SB 376, SD2, Relating to a Farm to School Program**

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Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in **support of** Senate Bill 376, SD2, which will create a farm to school program in the Department of Agriculture and to provide funding for two farm to school coordinator positions to oversee the State's farm to school program.

The Hawaii Public Health Institute (HIPHI) supports and promotes policy efforts to create a health Hawaii. HIPHI weaves silos into working relationships as an effective network, ensuring that we come together across sectors to advance collaboration and innovation in public health and work towards making Hawaii the healthiest place on earth.

There is a growing trend of childhood obesity in Hawaii with approximately 1 out of 4 children entering Kindergarten are overweight or obese. There is a growing demand for farm to school programs nationally. According to Oregon's Department of Agriculture and Department of Education, a successful farm to school program can increase students' physical activity, school meal participation, preference for fresh fruits and vegetables, and improve academic achievement and behavior. Oregon State Coordinators work together and with stakeholders to increase educational opportunities and the procurement of locally grown foods for schools, encouraging students' consumption of locally grown foods.

Farm to school activities have been proven to support a nutritious school food environment and more than 85 percent of youth in Hawaii attend public schools. Students who participate in farm to school activities are more likely to be familiar with, prefer and consume more fruits and vegetable at school and at home. Establishing healthy behaviors at an early age can help to prevent the onset of chronic disease and other health conditions later in life. The leading causes of death in Hawaii are heart disease, cancer, and diabetes, all illnesses that are often associated with dietary behaviors. There are currently at least twenty states that have established farm to school programs and coordinator positions to improve the health of children through the support of school gardens, health and nutrition education, agriculture, and the procurement of locally grown foods for school meals and snacks.

HIPHI supports SB 376, SD2, which would use monies from general revenues of the State of Hawaii to establish two full-time farm to school coordinator positions, one in the Department of Education and one in the Department of Agriculture, for FY 2015-2016 (\$150,000.00 each). The two coordinators will work in collaboration with one another, as well as other stakeholders, to address issues of supply, demand, procurement, and consumption of Hawaii-grown foods in state facilities, primarily education facilities, and take reasonable steps to incorporate more agriculture and nutrition education in schools.

850 Richards St., Suite 201 | Honolulu, HI 96813 | T 808.591.6508

[hiphi.org](http://hiphi.org)



For the keiki of Hawaii, we respectfully ask you to pass SB 376, SD2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jessica Yamauchi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Jessica Yamauchi, MA  
Executive Director

**LATE**



Testimony: SB 376 SD2  
Wednesday April 1, 2015  
2:30 p.m.  
Conference Room 308

Nancy Redfeather  
Director Hawai'i Island School Garden Network  
State Supervisor: FoodCorps Hawai'i  
The Kohala Center – Hawai'i Island

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee,

Farm to School was a natural part of Hawaii's school food procurement system until the late 1970s. Through the 70s, most schools on Hawai'i Island had large school gardens tended by students and teachers and the majority of the produce went directly into the cafeteria and was incorporated into student meals. It is not a new idea to procure locally, but an idea that was lost and is now being rethought in a way that focuses on both improving student health and achievement and connecting students to core curriculum through project-based, experiential learning in school gardens and school farms. These outdoor classrooms are perfect learning laboratories where students can "practice" the "big ideas" of both the Common Core and the Next Generation Science Standards.

As the State Supervisor for the FoodCorps Hawai'i Program, a Hawai'i State Americorp Program, we currently place 9 full time Garden/Nutrition Educators/Service Members in 12 public schools on 3 Islands. These young leaders work directly with their Administration and Faculty to create school garden programs and curriculum that align with the school's educational goals, and engage our youth in meaningful and inspiring work. They also assist the USDA/ Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Programs on each campus.

Bringing this education to all the children in Hawai'i requires a broader partnership between community and government/institutions/agencies.

As you know, it has long been a priority for Hawai'i to develop and grow food self-reliance. A Farm to School program, focused on increasing local institutional purchasing and creating a framework and support for school gardens and school farms, will finally

place staff positions in State Agencies that can work together to strategize, prioritize inter-agency interests, and create a road map to grow production for local purchasing, and help to create future generations of farmers and knowledgeable citizens who know the value of locally produced foods and support their consumption.

Healthy habits are taking root all across the county. Farm to School Program Legislation has passed in 20 states with another 17 introducing Legislation. An investment in the health of Hawaii's students is also an investment in the health of local economies. In 2012, school districts in the US purchased over \$386 million in locally produced food from farmers, ranchers, fisherman and food processors and manufactures. Farm to School programs provide access to new and diversified markets. Individual producers across the US are experiencing a 5% increase in income by participating in local programs, and forward contracting with producers is becoming increasingly popular.

In the latest SAWS Survey (Safety and Wellness Survey) conducted by the Department of Health from school year 2012-2013, 192/241 schools have school gardens, 88% use it daily for instructional purposes and 68% use the garden for the sciences and STEM.

From our 2012 Hawaii Farm to School and School Garden Hui (HFSSGH) DOE Survey of School Gardens, there are over 21,577 students, 830 teachers, and 1,500 regular volunteers working over 1,000 hours per week, growing food, flowers, and herbs on over 30 acres of land across the state.

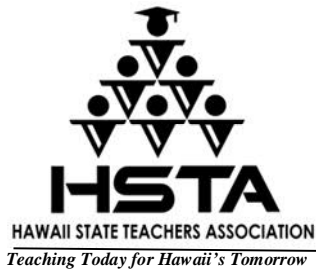
Funding for a school garden educator position and equipment needs were identified as the highest priorities of the 168 schools that took the survey. Broader community involvement and cultivating sustainability were their highest vision priorities.

We are so fortunate to have the USDA standing by to be a major partner with our state agencies in the development of a Farm to School Program. The Kohala Center recently received a USDA Farm to School Grant to identify best practices in the USDA/FFVP Program statewide, increase capacity and support for the State HFSSGH, and align school garden activities with the Common Core and Science Standards.

While non-profits and community organizations can initiate change and move programs forward, there comes a time when government and agencies are needed to grow the partnership. That time is now. The investment made in these two positions will be just the catalyst needed to grow our agricultural economy, increase student health, and pave the way for a brighter food future for Hawai'i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Aloha,  
Nancy Redfeather  
The Kohala Center



**LATE**

1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819  
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: [www.hsta.org](http://www.hsta.org)

Wil Okabe  
President  
Joan Kamila Lewis  
Vice President  
Colleen Pasco  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Wilbert Holck  
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

DATE: APRIL 1, 2015

RE: SB376, SD2 – FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM AND COORDINATOR

PERSON TESTIFYING: JOAN LEWIS, VICE PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The Honorable Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Scott Nishimoto and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Hawai'i's 13,500 public and public charter school teachers, The Hawai'i State Teachers' Association is in **support of SB 376, SD 2.**

We are an island state with a long history of connection to the land that predates western contact. Throughout Hawai'i's history, the land and that which that land produces has been essential in the sustainability of our people and our economy.

In recent history, our "disconnect" with the land and our almost sole reliance on food from other shores has put our citizens in a precarious state. While we are all closely monitoring the labor dispute related to shipping to Hawai'i and its potential impact on our food supplies, we are also aware of the growing number of food recalls that are also occurring.

Support of SB 376, SD 2 will provide an opportunity for Hawai'i's youngest; school aged citizens to learn how to mitigate some of these challenges while learning how to reconnect with the land.

In providing opportunities for students to ultimately participate in Farm to School initiatives that may help them learn to grow fruits and vegetables in small areas, we help them understand that small steps can provide big outcomes.

In helping our teachers better learn how to support and teach towards sustainability, we make it more likely for Hawai'i to become more self-sustaining.

HSTA supports the concept of living and promoting sustainability. We know that the best leaders are our students.

HSTA **support of SB 376, SD 2**

